



Press Clipping Article

Title: State still looking for growers

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Lead:

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State farm officials have whittled down by 800 a list of undeliverable tobacco checks.

Last June, Kentucky sent out more than 164,000 checks to certified recipients of the Phase II Tobacco Settlement program.

In the past month, more than 800 checks have been claimed and as of this week there remain approximately 2,400 checks that did not reach their intended recipients.

The state is still looking for 16 individual farmers in Carter County, which is down from the 50 recipients sought last month.

In the area's other high tobacco-producing counties, undelivered check totals have also declined - from 75 farmers in Lewis County to 30, and from 65 in Greenup County to 22.

The state wants to find holders of the remaining tobacco settlement checks, and this week released an updated list of checks that still remain unclaimed.

Farmers may view the list on the Internet at the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy's Web site at http://tobaccotrust.ky.gov/phase_ii/.

The list is sorted by the last name within the county in which the farm was registered according to USDA Farm Service Agency.

You can also contact the office's call center toll-free at (877) 549-2537. You will need to verify some personal information, and then give the correct mailing address information in order for the state to mail the check.

In addition to the name of the recipient, the state's list also contains the claimant ID number, farm number, and check number. The state says you should have this information available when speaking to the call center.

If unclaimed, the checks will expire on June 20, 2006.

Among reasons for the undeliverable checks are no forwarding address left, expired forwarding address, the recipient is deceased, the recipient is not known, or the P.O. Box was closed.

The checks have been a yearly standard for tobacco growers and quota holders, to whom the state has doled out some of the funds it's collected from its lawsuit settlement against cigarette manufacturers.

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